



**REGENERATION OUTCOME AGREEMENT  
UPDATE**

**Board Meeting - 18 May 2005**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide the Board with an update in respect of the Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA) and associated programme of funding from the new Community Regeneration Fund (CRF).

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The requirement on Community Planning Partners to prepare a three-year ROA is contained within the Scottish Executive and Communities Scotland's Guidance, issued in August 2003, on the Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) transition to Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs).
- 2.2 The establishment of the new Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) replaces existing Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) and Better Neighbourhood Services Funding (BNSF) programmes and builds on the lessons and good practice from these programmes.
- 2.3 East Ayrshire's ROA received formal endorsement from all core Community Planning Partners and was approved at the joint meeting of the North Social Inclusion Initiative and the Coalfield Area SIP Boards on 3 February 2005.
- 2.4 East Ayrshire Council's Policy and Resources Committee considered and approved funding proposals at its meeting of 8 February 2005, and the ROA and associated programme of projects was forwarded to the Scottish Executive and Communities Scotland for consideration following Committee approval.

**3. PROGRESS REPORT AND CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 As part of the assessment process, the Scottish Executive and Communities Scotland met with East Ayrshire representatives on 7 March 2005 to provide feedback on the content of the ROA. Formal feedback was provided by the Scottish Executive in a letter to East Ayrshire Council's Head of Corporate Development and Communication dated 20 April 2005 which:
- set out the issues that require to be addressed to ensure Ministerial approval of the ROA; and
  - highlighted some of the development and delivery issues which require to be improved over the lifetime of the ROA.

- 3.2 The letter set out conditions of approval and identified a number of minor issues which the revised ROA should address as well as some broad areas of work which, although not requiring immediate action to obtain formal approval, require to be developed in the future.
- 3.3 In addition, however, the feedback letter emphasised that the principal purpose of the CRF is to focus on the 15% most disadvantaged data zones identified in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD04) and that East Ayrshire's proposal to extend the targeting to the 15-30% data zones would, in the Executive's view significantly dilute its impact by extending the population covered from 22,664 to 51,841. The Scottish Executive, therefore, considered that East Ayrshire's proposals did not meet the requirements of the ROA Guidance and the Community Planning Partners were requested to reconsider this option.
- 3.4 The Partners expressed disappointment at the response of the Executive and Communities Scotland to East Ayrshire's proposals to target outwith the most deprived 15% data zones. Consequently, the Leader of the Council, on behalf of the Community Planning Partners, wrote to the First Minister on 31 March 2005 raising concern about the lack of flexibility adopted by Communities Scotland and the Scottish Executive in respect of the targeting of the ROA within East Ayrshire. The correspondence highlighted the need for localised planning and decision-making of the targeting and prioritisation of the ROA, which would deliver a programme appropriate to the needs of communities in the area. As yet, there has been no formal response to this letter.
- 3.5 Alastair MacIntosh, the Scottish Executive's Head of Regeneration, Fuel Poverty and Supporting People, was invited to visit East Ayrshire on 25 April 2005 and met with the Council's Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive and the Community Planning and Partnership Manager, who provided additional information and a short tour of the area to support the ROA extended targeting based on the inclusive approach successfully adopted by the Coalfield Area SIP and endorsed by the Scottish Executive.
- 3.6 A meeting with representatives from Communities Scotland was convened on 28 April 2005 to further discuss and find an appropriate solution to the targeting issue. Revised proposals are currently being developed to resolve this issue, the detail of which will be presented at the Board meeting.
- 3.7 The Terms and Conditions of Grant for CRF and Community Voices Programme (CVP) have been issued by the Scottish Executive and Communities Scotland and former SIP/Better Neighbourhood Services Fund projects have received one quarter of the CRF allocation.
- 3.8 Communities Scotland has confirmed funding for 2005/06 for existing projects and has agreed to approve the following new projects, prior to the ROA receiving Ministerial 'sign off':
- Transport for Netherthird Nursery and Family Centre; and
  - Logan Development.

Further information was requested by and subsequently provided to Communities Scotland in respect of the Dialogue Youth Active Citizenship, Breakfast Clubs, Community Health Partnership's Domestic Abuse Initiative and the Research Officer projects.

#### **4. GOVERNANCE**

- 4.1 At the meeting of the joint Board on 10 March 2005, the Community Planning and Partnership Manager was remitted to establish a working group with community representatives of the Coalfield Area SIP Board and the North Social Inclusion Initiative Board to consider options in respect of future operating structures within the community planning process for East Ayrshire.
- 4.2 The first stage of the review process has been concluded and proposals in respect of future operating and decision-making structures, particularly in respect of specific resources allocated to the Community Planning Partners, is the subject of a separate report to the Board.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 Members of the Board are asked to:

- i) note the issues raised by the Scottish Executive and Communities Scotland in respect of East Ayrshire's ROA which was submitted for consideration in February 2005;
- ii) consider the appropriateness of the conditions of approval in respect of the issue of targeting imposed by the Scottish Executive and Communities Scotland;
- iii) note the actions progressed by Community Planning Partners to address the issues raised in respect of targeting areas outwith the worst 15% data zones identified by the SIMD04;
- iv) endorse the proposals in the revised ROA to meet the requirements of the Guidance;
- v) note that the Terms and Conditions of Grant for the CRF and CVP have been issued by the Scottish Executive and Communities Scotland;
- vi) note Communities Scotland's approval of the new CRF projects identified at 3.8; and
- vii) otherwise note the content of the report.

**Gwen Barker**  
**Community Planning and Partnership Manager**  
**10 May 2005**